

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



REMINDER product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- [Medicare Enrollment Guidelines for Ordering/Referring Providers](#), Fact Sheet, ICN 906223, downloadable

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Improve Your Patients' Health with the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) and Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)

Note: This article was re-issued on November 27, 2013.

Provider Types Affected

Health care professionals eligible to furnish the IPPE or AWV.

What You Need to Know

Medicare covers the following services for Medicare patients that meet certain eligibility requirements:

- The Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) (also known as the "Welcome to Medicare" Preventive Visit); and

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- The Annual Wellness Visit (AWV).

These preventive benefits allow you to assess your patients' health on an annual basis to help you determine if they have any risk factors and if they are eligible for other preventive services and screenings that Medicare covers.

These preventive benefits are a great way for you to detect illnesses in their earliest stages when treatment works best. The average reimbursement level for the AWV is about \$107 and about \$150 for the IPPE with no patient deductible or co-pay.

Note: Please check the physician fee schedule for the exact amount of reimbursement for your locality and setting. You can view the physician fee schedule by visiting <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PFSlookup/index.html> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

The Initial Preventative Physical Exam IPPE (“Welcome to Medicare” Preventive Visit)

Medicare covers an IPPE for all patients who have newly enrolled in Medicare Part B.

- The patient must receive this service within the first 12 months after the effective date of their Medicare Part B coverage.
- The IPPE is a one-time benefit.
- The IPPE consists of the following:
 - Review the patient's medical and social history;
 - Review potential risk factors for depression and other mood disorders;
 - Review functional ability and level of safety;
 - Measurement of height, weight, body mass index (BMI), and visual acuity screening.
 - End-of-life planning (upon agreement of the individual);
 - Education, counseling and referral based on the review of previous 5 components; and
 - Education, counseling and referral for other preventive services, including a brief written plan such as a checklist.

For more information about the IPPE, please see “Quick Reference Information: The ABCs of the IPPE” at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QRI_IPPE001a.pdf on the CMS website.

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The AWW or Annual Wellness Visit

Medicare covers an annual AWW for patients:

- Who are no longer within 12 months of the effective date of their first Part B coverage period; and
- Who have not gotten either an IPPE or AWW within the previous 12 months.

Medicare pays for only one **first** AWW. Medicare will pay for a **subsequent** AWW for each patient annually. **Note:** The elements in first and subsequent AWWs, and the codes to bill them, are different.

- The first AWW includes the following elements:
 - A health risk assessment;
 - Establishment of a current list of provider and suppliers;
 - Review of medical and family history;
 - Measurement of height, weight, BMI, and blood pressure;
 - Review of potential risk factors for depression and other mood disorders;
 - Review of functional ability and level of safety;
 - Detection of any cognitive impairment the patient may have;
 - Establishment of a written screening schedule (such as a checklist);
 - Establishment of a list of risk factors; and
 - Provision of personalized health advice and referral to appropriate health education or other preventive services.
- Subsequent AWWs include the following elements:
 - Review of updated health risk assessment;
 - Update medical and family history;
 - Update of list of current providers and suppliers;
 - Measurement of weight and blood pressure;
 - Detection of cognitive impairment the patient may have;
 - Update of the written screening schedule (such as a checklist);
 - Update of the list of risk factors; and
 - Provision of personalized health advice and referral to appropriate health education or other preventive services.

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For more information about the AWW, please see:

- “Quick Reference Information: The ABCs of the AWW” at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/AWW_Chart_ICN905706.pdf or
- “Providing the Annual Wellness Visit” at: <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/AnnualWellnessVisit-ICN907786.pdf> on the CMS website.

Additional Information

The Medicare Learning Network® has published a variety of additional educational material on Medicare-covered Preventive Services, including:

- Preventive Services Educational Products: http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/education_products_prevserv.pdf;
- The Preventive Services MLN page: <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/PreventiveServices.html>; and
- MLN Matters® Articles Related to Medicare-Covered Preventive Benefits <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNPrevArticles.pdf>.

For general information about Medicare-covered preventive services, visit the CMS Prevention page at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/index.html> on the CMS website. For information to share with your Medicare patients, please visit <http://www.medicare.gov> on the Internet.

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